

NEW ZEALAND

The six land regions of New Zealand are the Waikato Basin, the Volcanic Region and the Eastern Hills, the Southern Alps and the Canterbury Plains, and the Otago Plateau.

Southern Peninsula and Waikato Basin

Volcanic Region and Western Hill Country

Canterbury Plains

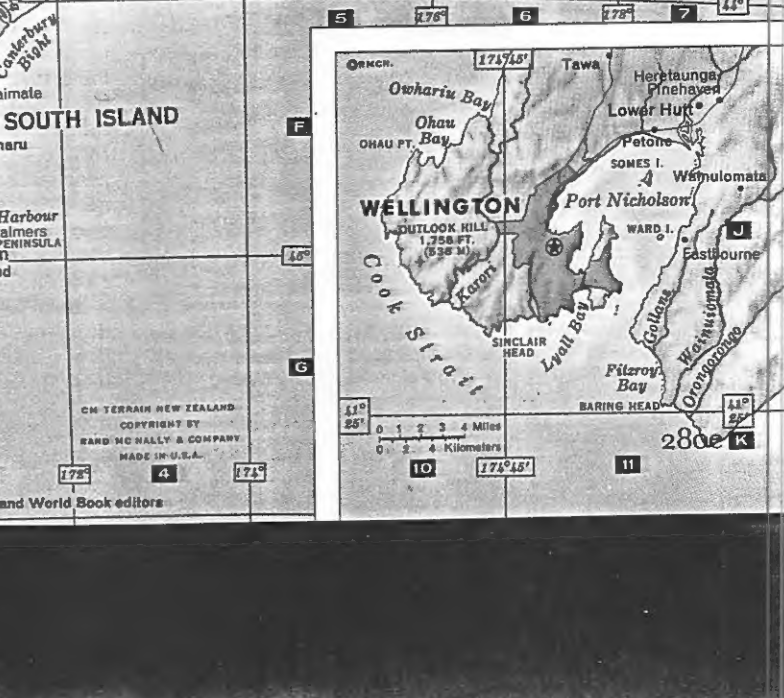
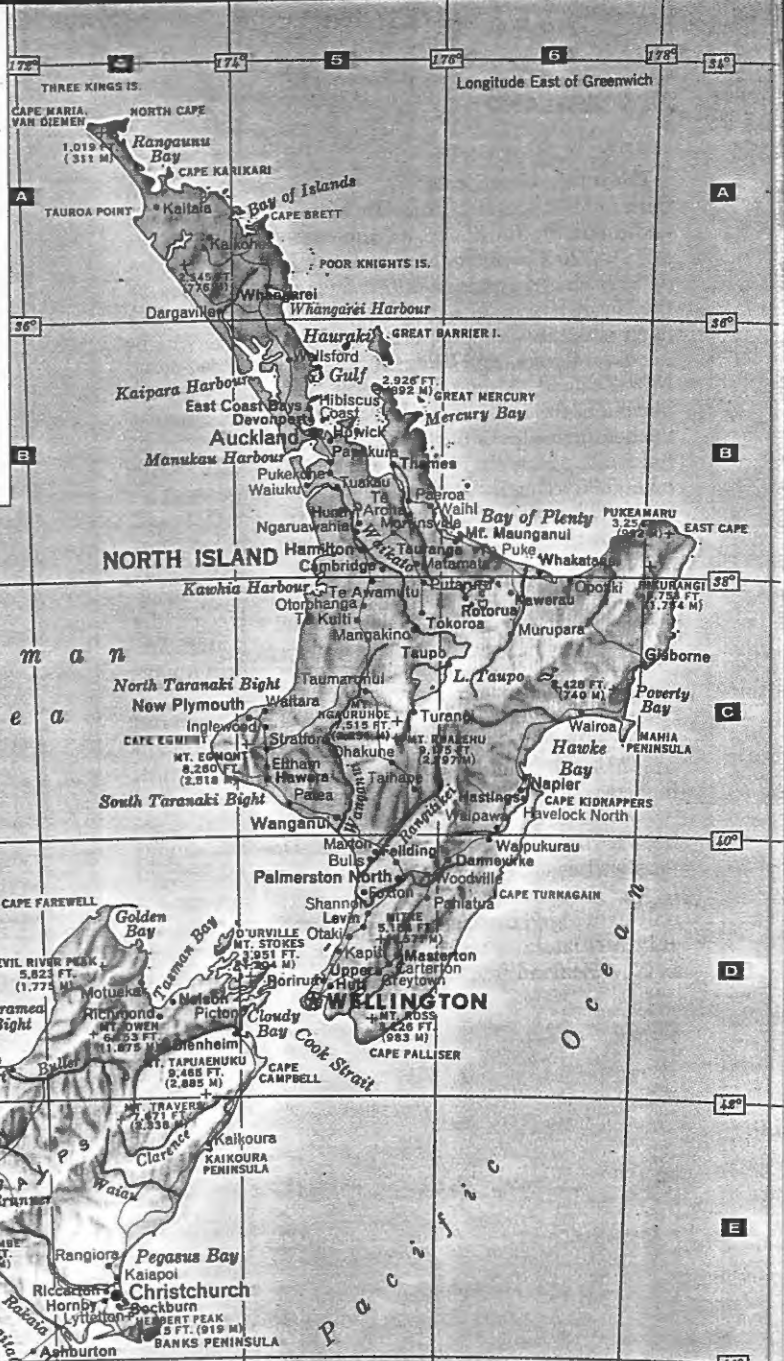
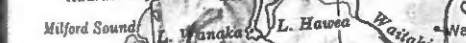
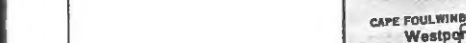
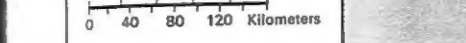
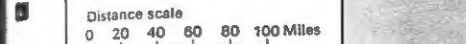
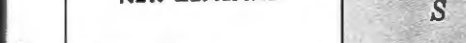
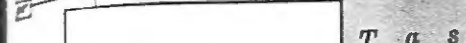
0 100 200 300 Miles
0 200 400 Kilometers

WORLD BOOK

1,177	5	Taumarunui	6,479	C
1,177	9	Taupo	12,898	C
1,177	9	Tauranga	33,672	S
1,177	9	Tawa	12,297	J
1,177	9	Te Anau	2,384	F
1,177	9	Te Aroha	3,202	S
1,177	9	Te Awamutu	7,819	C
1,177	9	Te Kuiti	4,840	C
1,177	9	Te Puke	3,810	S
1,177	9	Temuka	3,711	F
1,177	9	Thames	6,769	S
1,177	9	Timaru	29,267	F
1,177	9	Tokoroa	18,635	C
1,177	9	Tuakau	1,724	S
1,177	9	Turanga	5,496	C
1,177	9	Upper Hutt	30,616	D
1,177	9	Waihi	3,415	S
1,177	9	Waikeke	4,184	D
1,177	9	Waimate	3,378	F
1,177	9	Waiuku	19,318	J
1,177	9	Waipawa	1,827	C
1,177	9	Waipukurau	3,632	D
1,177	9	Wairoa	5,466	C
1,177	9	Waitara	6,036	C
1,177	9	Waitemata	79,855	H
1,177	9	Waiuku	3,494	S
1,177	9	Wanganui	37,307	C
1,177	9	Wellington	327,414	D
1,177	9	Wellsford	1,687	D
1,177	9	Westport	4,988	D
1,177	9	Whakatane	11,542	S
1,177	9	Whangarei	34,981	A
1,177	9	Winton	3,004	G
1,177	9	Woodville	1,548	D

appear on the map; key shows general location of last census (1976).

B 4	Southern Alps	(Mountains)
G 2	Stewart Island	
F 3	Tasman Bay	
E 4	Tasman Sea	
J 11	Waikato River	
H 8	Waikato River	
A 4	Waikato River	
C 3	Waikato River	
H 9	Waikato River	
F 3	Waikato River	





Bill Noel Kleeman, Tom Stack & Associates

New Zealand's Beautiful Countryside provides excellent grazing land for millions of sheep. The nation ranks as one of the world's leading producers of lamb, mutton, and wool.

NEW ZEALAND

NEW ZEALAND is an island country in the Southwest Pacific Ocean. It lies about 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometers) southeast of Australia and about 6,500 miles (10,500 kilometers) southwest of California. New Zealand belongs to a large island group called *Polynesia*.

The country consists of two main islands—the North Island and the South Island—and several dozen much smaller islands. Most of the smaller islands are hundreds of miles or kilometers from the main ones. Altogether, the islands have an area about equal to that of Colorado. Wellington is the capital of New Zealand, and Auckland is the largest city. The country was once part of the British Empire. Today, it is an independent member of the Commonwealth of Nations, an association of countries that replaced the empire.

New Zealand is a beautiful country of snow-capped mountains, green lowlands, beaches, and many lakes and waterfalls. No place is more than 80 miles (130 kilometers) from the coast, and nowhere are mountains or hills out of view.

A brown-skinned people called *Maoris* were the first people to live in New Zealand. They came from Polynesian islands northeast of New Zealand. Europeans discovered the country in 1642, but they did not start to settle in the islands until the late 1700's. Today, most New Zealanders are descendants of early European settlers. About 8 per cent of the people are Maoris. A New Zealander of European descent is known as a

pakeha (pronounced *PAH kuh hah* or *PAH kee hah*). *Pakeha* is the Maori word for *white man*.

New Zealand's standard of living ranks among the highest in the world. The country has almost no extremely poor or extremely rich people. Most of New Zealand's income comes from the raising of sheep and cattle. The nation's economy depends on foreign trade. Butter, cheese, lamb, and wool are the chief exports.

New Zealand has a long tradition of equal rights and benefits for all its citizens. In 1893, it became the first nation to give women the vote. It was also among the first countries to provide social security benefits and old-age pensions for its people. Today, the nation has one of the world's finest public health programs.

FACTS IN BRIEF

Capital: Wellington.

Official Language: English.

Form of Government: Constitutional monarchy.

Area: 103,833 sq. mi. (269,057 km²). *North Island*—44,244 sq. mi. (114,592 km²); *South Island*—58,965 sq. mi. (152,719 km²); *Stewart Island*—674 sq. mi. (1,746 km²).

The North and the South islands extend in a curve more than 1,000 mi. (1,600 km) long. **Coastline**—about 3,200 mi. (5,150 km).

Elevation: *Highest*—Mount Cook, 12,349 ft. (3,764 m) above sea level. *Lowest*—sea level along the coast.

Population: *Estimated 1980 Population*—3,361,000; distribution, 83 per cent urban, 17 per cent rural; density, 34 persons per sq. mi. (13 per km²). *1976 Census*—3,129,383. *Estimated 1985 Population*—3,674,000.

Chief Products: *Agriculture*—butter, cheese, meat, wool. *Manufacturing*—chemicals, machinery, paper and wood pulp, petroleum products, plastics, processed foods, textiles, transportation equipment.

Anthems: "God Defend New Zealand" (national); "God Save the Queen" (royal).

Money: *Basic Unit*—New Zealand dollar. For its value in U.S. money, see MONEY (table: Exchange Rates).

Gordon R. Lewthwaite, the contributor of this article, is Professor of Geography at California State University at Northridge. He is a native of New Zealand, a former lecturer at the University of Auckland, and a specialist in New Zealand studies.

NEW ZEALAND / Government

New Zealand is a constitutional monarchy. The nation recognizes Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain as its monarch. The queen appoints a governor general to represent her in New Zealand, but the governor general has little real power. The New Zealand legislature and the prime minister and the Cabinet run the national government.

Great Britain gave New Zealand a constitution in 1852, when it was a British colony. But through the years, the New Zealand legislature has changed almost all its provisions. For all practical purposes, the nation today has no written constitution.

Legislature of New Zealand consists of only one house, the 87-member House of Representatives, also called Parliament. The people in each of 87 electorates (voting districts) elect one member of Parliament. Four electorates are reserved for Maori candidates and voters, but a Maori may vote in another electorate if he wishes. A parliamentary election must be held at least every three years, but one may be held sooner. All citizens 18 years old or older may vote.

Prime Minister and Cabinet. The leader of the political party that wins the most seats in a parliamentary election becomes prime minister. The prime minister appoints a Cabinet to run the various government departments. The Cabinet members, called *ministers*, are members of Parliament from the prime minister's party. The prime minister and the Cabinet are called the *Government*. The party that wins the second most seats in an election is called the *Opposition*. The Government proposes most new legislation to Parliament. If Parliament votes in favor of a bill, the bill becomes law. But if the Government loses the support of the majority in Parliament on an important issue, it resigns. Parliament is then dissolved, and a new election is held.

Political Parties. The main political parties in New Zealand are the Labour Party and the National Party. There is no clear division between the policies of the two parties. But in general, the Labour Party favors government control and public regulation of industry, and the National Party favors free enterprise.

Ombudsman is an official selected by Parliament to investigate complaints by New Zealand citizens against government departments. The ombudsman looks into the complaints and sends an opinion to the department involved. If the department does not take the action that the ombudsman believes is needed, the findings may be reported to Parliament. See OMBUDSMAN.

Courts. The Court of Appeal is New Zealand's highest court. It hears only cases that have been appealed from a lower court. The Supreme Court is the second highest court. It handles cases involving serious offenses and appeals from magistrates' courts. Magistrates' courts, the lowest courts, hear most minor cases.

Local Government units of New Zealand include 104 counties, 26 cities, and 109 small urban areas called boroughs. The voters in each of the country's local government units elect a governing council.

Armed Forces. New Zealand's regular army, navy, and air force have a total of about 13,000 men and women. All military service is voluntary.



Nerida F. Ellerton, Tom Stack & Associates

Parliament House in Wellington is the meeting place of the House of Representatives, New Zealand's one-house legislature.



New Zealand's Flag, officially adopted in 1902, features the British Union Flag and the constellation Southern Cross.

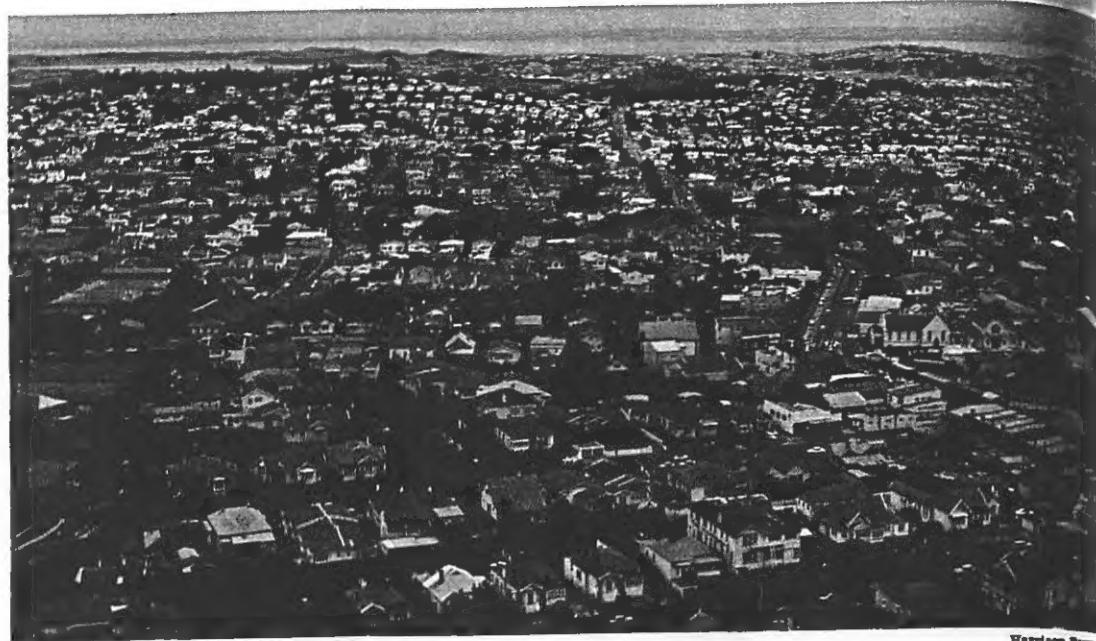


Coat of Arms. The symbols on the shield represent the importance of farming, mining, and trade to New Zealand.



WORLD BOOK map

New Zealand lies about 1,200 miles (1,930 kilometers) southeast of Australia. It has an area about 3 per cent as large as that of the United States, not including Alaska and Hawaii.



Harrison Forman

Residential Sections of Auckland, like those of other New Zealand cities, consist mostly of single-family homes. Auckland is the country's largest city.

New Zealanders believe deeply in equal rights for all citizens. The Maoris and pakehas live in an atmosphere of common trust, and Maori political leaders and professional people play important roles in the life of the nation.

The New Zealand way of life combines an easy informality with a British sense of politeness. New Zealanders have kept close emotional ties to Britain and still follow many British customs. As a result, they have been slow to develop their own feeling of national identity.

Ancestry and Population. New Zealand has a population of over 3½ million. About 85 per cent of the people were born in New Zealand. Many of them are descendants of British settlers who came to the country during the 1800's. Immigrants still come to New Zealand, chiefly from Britain, Australia, and other English-speaking countries. See IMMIGRATION AND EMIGRATION (Australia and New Zealand).

About 270,000 Maoris live in New Zealand. They make up the country's largest minority group. The Maoris are a Polynesian people whose ancestors came to New Zealand hundreds of years ago.

More than 70 per cent of all New Zealanders live on the North Island, and over 80 per cent live in urban areas. New Zealand has five cities with more than 100,000 persons. They are, in order of size, Auckland; Wellington, the nation's capital; Christchurch; Manukau; and Dunedin. See AUCKLAND; CHRISTCHURCH; WELLINGTON.

Language. English is the official language of New Zealand and is spoken throughout the country. Most of the people speak English with a New Zealand accent,

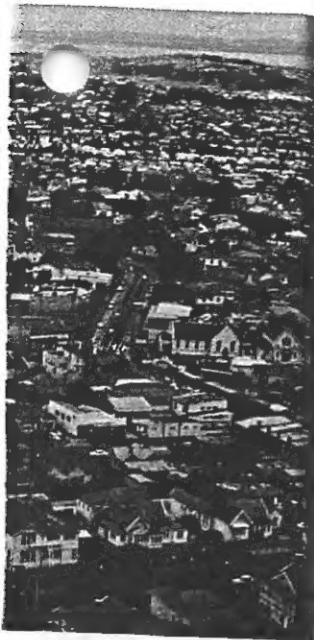
which resembles a British accent with a slightly nasal sound.

Many Maoris speak their own language, Maori, in addition to English. The Maori language belongs to the Malayo-Polynesian group of languages (see LANGUAGE [Other Language Families]).

Way of Life. The people of New Zealand have a high standard of living. They have long been among the best-fed people in the world. They also receive excellent free health care under the government's medical program. The average annual income in New Zealand is higher than in any other country except the United States and Canada. About 70 per cent of New Zealand families own their homes, and almost every family has a car.

Most New Zealanders live in single-family houses with enough land for small flower or vegetable gardens. In the larger cities, some people live in high-rise apartment buildings. Almost all New Zealand homes have refrigerators, washing machines, and other modern electrical appliances. But few homes have air conditioning or central heating because New Zealand's weather rarely becomes extremely hot or extremely cold. In summer, open windows keep homes cool. In winter, fireplaces or electric heaters keep them warm.

Although about four-fifths of the people live in urban areas, New Zealand's cities are fairly uncrowded. Bad traffic jams seldom occur, even in the downtown areas. New Zealand's large cities have excellent restaurants as well as many *milk bars* (soda fountains) and *pubs* (taverns). These cities also have theaters, concert halls, and other places of entertainment. However, city life in New Zealand tends to be rather quiet. Most



consist mostly of

es a British accent with a slight
is speak their own language,
English. The Maori language belongs
to the Polynesian group of languages (see
Large Families).
The people of New Zealand have
long been an important part of the world. They also
receive much care under the government's
average annual income in New Zealand is
higher than in any other country except the
United States. About 70 per cent of New Zealanders
live in single-family homes, and almost every family
has a garden. Most New Zealanders live in single-family
homes for small flower or vegetable gardens. Some people
live in high-rise apartments. Almost all New Zealand
homes have washing machines, and other modern
appliances. But few homes have air conditioning
because New Zealand's climate is neither extremely
hot nor extremely cold. In winter, heaters keep
homes warm. In summer, the sun keeps them warm.
About four-fifths of the people live in New Zealand's
cities are fairly uncluttered. Traffic jams seldom
occur, even in the largest cities. New Zealand's
large cities have excellent shopping facilities.
Many cities also have theaters, museums, and
places of entertainment. However, New Zealand
tends to be rather quiet.

landers prefer to dine and entertain at home.
About a fifth of New Zealand's people live in rural
areas, small settlements are linked by good
roads, and so social contact is easy. But in
ranch country, a rancher's nearest neighbors
may be many miles or kilometers away. As a result,
ranchers live almost in isolation. Most farms and
ranches have electricity to provide light and to operate
machines and machinery. Many farm families run
on with little or no hired help.
New Zealanders enjoy watching television in the
evening, and more than three-fourths of New Zealand
have TV sets. The nation has four television
stations. None of them starts broadcasting before

Food and Drink. New Zealanders eat more butter
per person than do the people of any other
country. Lamb is a favorite meat. *Kumaras* (sweet po-
tatoes) often accompany lamb and other meat dishes.
A traditional treat is *toheroa* soup, made from a native green
shellfish. Tea is the favorite drink of most New Zealanders.
The most popular alcoholic beverage is beer.
Recreation. New Zealanders love outdoor activities.
Many city families own small *baches* (cabins) in
beach areas, where they go on weekends. The nation's
climate makes the year around makes camping, hiking,
and mountain climbing possible in any season.
Hunting on New Zealand's snow-capped mountains is be-
coming increasingly popular. Many people also enjoy
sports which somewhat resembles baseball; *Rugby*, a
form of football; swimming; and tennis (see CRICKET;
FOOTBALL).



Brian Brake, Rapho Gullumette

Players fight for the ball during a match in Wellington.
Rugby is a favorite game of the sports-loving New Zealanders.



E. W. Young, Tom Stack & Associates

A Woodcarving School teaches young Maoris one of the chief
skills of their ancestors. Maoris were New Zealand's first people.

Yachting along the coasts or on the lakes is a popular
activity. Yachting in coastal waters offers the added
attraction of fishing for marlin, shark, or swordfish.
Such inland waters as Lake Taupo provide year-round
trout fishing.

Education. New Zealand offers a free education to
all students up to the age of 19. The law requires
children from 6 through 15 to attend school, but most
youngsters enter school at 5. Many children under 5
attend free kindergartens or play centers. About a tenth
of the elementary school students go to private schools,
most of which are operated by the Roman Catholic
Church.

Some primary schools continue through what would
be eighth grade in the United States. Other primary
schools go only as far as fifth or sixth grade, and the stu-
dents then continue in an *intermediate school*. Inter-
mediate schools resemble junior high schools in the United
States.

After completing elementary or intermediate school,
most students go on to a *secondary school* or a *district high
school*. Secondary schools resemble high schools in the
United States. District high schools are the last four
grades of schools that include all elementary and
secondary classes. Secondary students may receive
special training in agriculture, home economics, and
technical subjects. About a seventh of all secondary
students in New Zealand attend private schools. The
Roman Catholic Church operates the majority of these
schools.

New Zealand's government runs special buses to
drive children who live in rural areas to and from school.
Students who live too far from a bus route may receive
instruction from the New Zealand Correspondence
School in Wellington. This government-run school
broadcasts daily lessons on the main radio stations. The
school also mails lessons to the students, who send
their homework back to the teachers.

NEW ZEALAND

Coastline. New Zealand's coastline is about 3,200 miles (5,150 kilometers) long. Including the bays, fiords, and gulfs, the full length of the coast is about 4,300 miles (6,920 kilometers). Auckland and Wellington, the nation's chief seaports, overlook fine natural harbors on the North Island. The South Island has a few natural inlets in areas where seaports would be useful.

Lakes, Rivers, and Waterfalls are found throughout New Zealand. Most of the lakes lie in the volcanic plateau of the North Island and in glacial valleys near the Southern Alps of the South Island. The largest lake, Lake Taupo on the North Island, covers 234 square miles (606 square kilometers) and is a vacation spot.

On both islands, the rivers rise in the mountains and flow down to the sea. Most of the rivers flow very fast and are difficult to navigate. The Waikato River on the North Island is New Zealand's longest river, flowing 264 miles (425 kilometers). The Clutha River on the South Island carries the largest volume of water. The rapid flow of New Zealand's rivers makes them important sources of hydroelectric power.

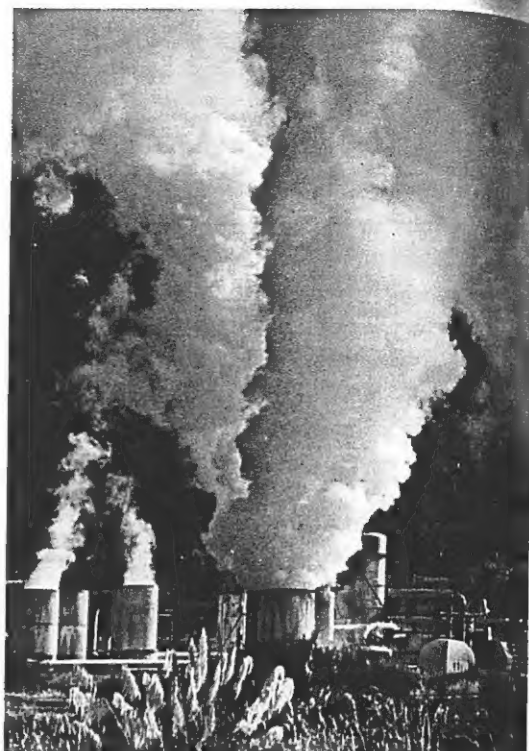
New Zealand has hundreds of waterfalls. Sutherland Falls tumbles 1,904 feet (580 meters) down a mountain near Milford Sound on the South Island. It is the fifth highest waterfall in the world.

Animal Life. Most of New Zealand's animals have been introduced from other countries. Deer and rabbits—as well as cattle, pigs, and sheep—were all brought by the European settlers. Two species of bats are the only native land mammals. New Zealand has no snakes. But the tuatara, a native prehistoric reptile, still lives in New Zealand (see ANIMAL [picture: The Tuatara]).



J. Alex Langley, DPI

Majestic Mount Cook, New Zealand's highest mountain, soars 12,349 feet (3,764 meters) on the South Island. Mount Cook and hundreds of other peaks attract many mountain climbers.



Brian Carroll, Photographic Library of Australia

Natural Steam rises from a large volcanic plateau in the center of the North Island. Engineers harness the geothermal steam to generate electricity. The region also has geysers and hot springs.

New Zealand's lakes and rivers are well stocked with salmon and trout brought from other countries.

New Zealand has many native birds, including such flightless species as the kakapo parrot, kiwi, takahe, and weka. The kiwi may be the best known of all New Zealand birds, partly because *Kiwi* is a nickname for a New Zealander. The kiwi is the only known bird with nostrils in the tip of its bill. The kea, a parrot that can fly, is noted for its playfulness with human beings. New Zealand once had many ostrichlike moas, but they have become extinct. See KEA; KIWI; MOA.

Plant Life. The native forests of New Zealand consist mainly of evergreen trees and tree ferns. Volcanic eruptions in prehistoric times destroyed large areas of forest in the central plateau of the North Island. As a result, small shrubs, such as the manuka, now cover much of the region. Forests of pinelike kauri trees once thrived on the Northland Peninsula, but the early European settlers cut down so many of the trees that they almost destroyed the kauri forests. Yet many evergreen trees, including some kauris, still flourish in parts of both the North Island and the South Island. Beech forests grow on the cooler uplands of both islands.

Since 1900, many foreign trees have been introduced into New Zealand. The country's lumber industry depends mainly on the fast-growing radiata pine, originally imported from California.

NEW ZEALAND / Climate

New Zealand has a mild, moist climate like that of the Pacific Northwest Coast of the United States. But New Zealand lies south of the equator, and so its seasons are opposite those of the Northern Hemisphere. July is New Zealand's coldest month, and January and February are its warmest months. The country's mild climate results from ocean breezes that bring warmth to the land in winter and coolness in summer. Summer temperatures range from about 65° F. (18° C) to about 75° F. (29° C). Winter temperatures range from about 45° F. (2° C) to about 55° F. (13° C). Rain falls throughout the year. The amount varies little from month to month, but some regions regularly receive much more rain than others. Throughout New Zealand, the weather shifts suddenly from sunny to rainy and back to sunny again.

Climate Regions. Although New Zealand overall has a mild, rainy climate, the climate differs in various parts of the country. On the North Island, the Northland Peninsula is warm and humid the year around. But the island's central plateau has hot, sunny weather in summer and sharp frosts with occasional snow in winter. Wellington lies exposed to the frequent gales of Cook Strait. On the South Island, the rainy west contrasts with the drier east. The southern areas of the South Island average about 8° F. (4° C) cooler than the northern parts of the North Island. In mountain regions, temperatures are about 4° F. (2° C) cooler with each 1,000-foot (300-meter) increase in altitude. The interiors of both islands have cooler winters and warmer summers than the coastal regions.

Rainfall. The mountains chiefly control the distribution of rainfall in New Zealand. Winds from the west carry moisture from the ocean. This moisture falls as rain on the western slopes of the mountain ranges. Al-

most the entire west coast averages more than 100 inches (250 centimeters) of rain a year. Milford Sound, on the South Island, receives up to 300 inches (760 centimeters) a year. East of the mountains, the winds have lost most of their moisture. Some eastern regions average less than 20 inches (51 centimeters) of rain a year. Severe thunderstorms rarely occur in New Zealand. Snow seldom falls in lowland areas, though some mountain peaks remain snow-capped all year.

Earthquakes. New Zealand has about 400 earthquakes every year, but only about 100 of them are even strong enough to be felt. The country's most disastrous earthquake occurred in Hawke Bay in 1931. It killed 255 persons and badly damaged the cities of Hastings and Napier.

AVERAGE MONTHLY WEATHER

AUCKLAND						CHRISTCHURCH					
	Temperatures		Days of				Temperatures		Days of		
	F°	C°	Rain or	Snow	F°		C°	Rain or	Snow		
	High	Low	High	Low		High	Low	High	Low		
JAN.	79	53	26	12	10	JAN.	36	41	30	5	10
FEB.	79	53	26	12	10	FEB.	83	41	28	5	8
MAR.	77	51	25	11	11	MAR.	81	37	27	3	9
APR.	73	47	23	8	14	APR.	76	33	24	1	10
MAY	67	42	19	6	19	MAY	69	29	21	-2	12
JUNE	63	39	17	4	19	JUNE	62	26	17	-3	13
JULY	62	38	17	3	21	JULY	61	26	16	-3	13
AUG.	63	39	17	4	19	AUG.	65	26	18	-3	11
SEPT.	65	41	18	5	17	SEPT.	70	30	21	-1	10
OCT.	68	44	20	7	16	OCT.	76	32	24	0	10
NOV.	73	47	23	8	15	NOV.	79	36	26	2	10
DEC.	76	50	24	10	12	DEC.	84	39	29	4	10

Source: Meteorological Office, London.

NEW ZEALAND / Economy

The economy of New Zealand depends mainly on farming and foreign trade. The sale of butter, cheese, meat, and wool to other countries, particularly to Great Britain, provides most of the nation's income. But manufacturing has been increasing rapidly, and about twice as many New Zealanders work in factories as on farms.

Natural Resources. New Zealand's greatest natural resource is its land. About a third of the land consists of fertile cropland and rich pastureland. Another third is covered with forests that provide valuable timber and with grasses that offer fair grazing for farm animals. The remaining third consists of lakes, rivers, and unproductive mountain areas.

New Zealand has few minerals. The most important include coal, iron ore, and natural gas. The country also has a little copper, gold, silver, and tungsten.

Water power provides about 85 per cent of the nation's electricity. On the North Island, eight dams along the Waikato River are used to produce elec-

l ri are well stocked with t from other countries. y native birds, including such kakapo parrot, kiwi, takahe, be the best known of all New ause *Kiwi* is a nickname for a i is the only known bird with ll. The kea, a parrot that can ness with human beings. New strichlike moas, but they have : Kiwi; Moa. forests of New Zealand con- rees and tree ferns. Volcanic imes destroyed large areas of au of the North Island. As a as the manuka, now cover ts of pinelike kauri trees once Peninsula, but the early Euro- nany of the trees that they al- forests. Yet many evergreen s, still flourish in parts of both South Island. Beech forests s of both islands. n trees have been introduced ountry's lumber industry de- growing radiata pine, orig- ornia.



David Moore, Black Star

Special Airplane Flights take skiers to the top of Tasman Glacier, a popular ski area on the South Island. The country's many sports and scenic attractions have created a boom in tourism.

The first people to live in New Zealand were the Maoris. They probably came to the country by canoes from the Cook, Marquesas, or Society islands, which lie northeast of New Zealand. No one knows when or why the Maoris first came, but some of them may have arrived in New Zealand by A.D. 750. According to Maori legend, the hero Maui created the North Island by fishing it up from the sea.

The first Maoris lived mainly by fishing and hunting. They have been named the *moa hunters* because they chiefly hunted the giant, wingless birds called *moas*. Other groups of Maoris came to New Zealand after 750, but historians do not know exactly when. Some Maoris almost certainly arrived in the 1300's. By then, the moa hunters had killed most of the moas. The later Maoris developed a culture based on agriculture as well as on fishing and hunting. They were skilled wood-carvers and, working with stone tools, created highly elaborate carvings.

Discovery by Europeans. In 1642, the Dutch sea captain Abel Janszoon Tasman became the first European to sight New Zealand. He tried to send a group of men ashore, but Maoris attacked their two small landing craft and killed several of the men. Tasman made no further attempt to land. The Dutch named the islands *Nieuw Zeeland* after a province in The Netherlands. No other European came to New Zealand until 1769, when Captain James Cook of the British navy landed on the North Island. Cook made friends with the Maoris and explored and charted both the North Island and the South Island. The Maoris kept no written records, and so the written history of New Zealand dates back only to Cook's time.

Colonization. Explorers from France, Spain, and other countries visited New Zealand during the late 1700's. By 1790, the seals and whales in New Zealand's coastal waters had begun to attract American, Austral-

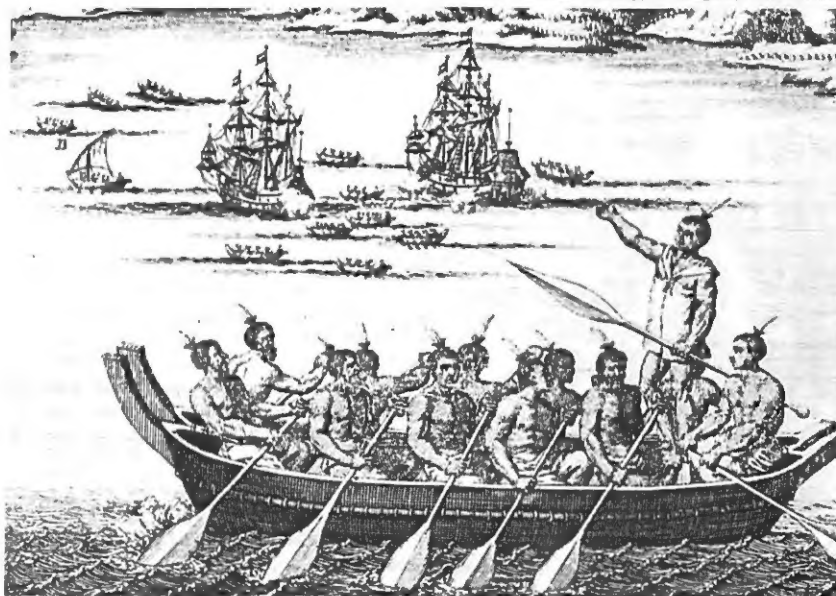
ian, and European hunters. Traders also came to buy flax and kauri timber from the Maoris. Some of the hunters and traders were convicts from the British penal colony at Sydney, Australia. These hunters and traders, almost all of them British, became the first colonists in New Zealand. In 1814, the first of many missionary groups to settle in the country arrived from Sydney. New Zealand had no legal government, and it remained a lawless frontier country until 1840.

The arrival of the foreigners brought great suffering to the Maoris. The pakehas introduced firearms, which increased the warfare among the Maori tribes. The newcomers also brought diseases against which the Maoris had no resistance. By 1840, warfare and disease had reduced the Maori population from about 200,000 to a little more than 100,000.

By the 1830's, British settlers and a number of Maoris had begun to ask Great Britain to provide law and order in New Zealand. But Britain hesitated to take action in a land it did not own. Finally, on Feb. 6, 1840, Captain William Hobson of the British navy and a group of Maori chiefs signed the Treaty of Waitangi. The treaty provided that the Maoris accept the British queen, Victoria, as their ruler in return for British protection of all Maori rights, including property rights. Under the treaty, the Maoris gave Britain *sovereignty* (control) over New Zealand, though some Maoris did not realize this at the time. Hobson became New Zealand's first governor. Soon after he signed the treaty, Hobson declared New Zealand to be a British colony.

Meanwhile, a British businessman, Edward Gibbon Wakefield, had formed the New Zealand Company in Great Britain to colonize the islands. Wakefield's company established colonies at Wellington and Wanganui in 1840 and at New Plymouth and Nelson in 1841. The company also joined with the Free Church of Scotland to establish Dunedin in 1848, and it joined with the

De Moordenaars Bay (The Murderers' Bay) (1726), an engraving by Francois Valentyn; Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand



Discovery by Europeans. In 1642, Abel Janszoon Tasman, a Dutch sea captain, sailed his two ships along the New Zealand coast and became the first European to sight the country. He tried to send some men ashore, but Maoris in canoes killed several of them. Tasman made no further effort to land.